



RICH TRIMMER TO LEAD THE ASA TRANSCONTINENTAL SERIES SAFETY TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

American Speed Association PR

DAYTONA BEACH, FL (Monday, January 11, 2009) - He has enjoyed a 30-year career as a safety director for many different racing series and tracks. Rich Trimmer is about to have his dream come true of doing the job he loves at an event on a different continent as he is preparing as the ASA Safety Director duties in the ASA Transcontinental Series Free State 500 at the Phakisa Freeway Circuit in Welkom, Free State, South Africa on Sunday, January 31, 2010.

Trimmer has had a long career as a safety director. He has worked ASA, NHRA, NASCAR events along with road racing and specialty events at Firebird International Raceway. He also has served on the committee for NFPA that wrote the professional level fire and safety protocol 610 for auto racing in the USA.

Going to assist with the ASA Transcontinental Series event in South Africa is a dream come true for Trimmer, "I have traveled a lot for the different series that I worked for. In my 30 years of doing racing safety I have been fortunate to work with every form of racing with the exception of snowmobile racing and airplanes," Trimmer said. "I have done races in Canada, Mexico and all over the U.S. But to be able to travel to a foreign country like South Africa its like a dream come true."

Larry Pond of ASA has worked with Rich Trimmer for over 20 years on developing good safety protocols for all types of race events. Larry states, "Rich has been a major contributor to auto racing safety as long as I have known him. Any time I need to talk with someone about racing safety, Rich is my main source of help. I highly recommended him to Dennis as our Safety and Rescue Director. A part of his job is to complete the Safety and Rescue Protocol that will be a part of our rule book for the event."

Along with Larry Pond, Trimmer will be working closely with the Phakisa Freeway Circuit Safety Team, "Doing a lot of e-mails back and forth with the folks over in Phakisa and just trying to see what they have available and have to adjust so it can fit into the ASA program," Trimmer explained. "I am just trying to get myself prepared for what they have there and get everything to work."

He already has his game plan laid out when he arrives, "My first thing is to take a look at the layout of the track and get the locations of where the safety trucks and response vehicles will go," Trimmer said. "Then I will meet my crew and we will then get with the cars where we will go over the safety aspects from the fuel cell, to the safety belts, to the roll cage. We will go through some scenarios with them to make sure everyone is on the same page as far as how to respond, when to respond, where to respond to the vehicle, what to look for, how to deal with the belts and safety nets, etc. Just want to make sure that everyone is on the same page."

With safety being the number one concern for the event, Trimmer will go over as many scenarios and at the same time is eager to learn from the Phakisa safety team as well, "I am sure they will get tired of me repeating things, but I am a firm believer of being repetitive then it comes natural when you need it. I am confident in the crew over there being real good as they have a lot of experience with their popular road races. I just want to make sure that there is no hiccups to what I am used to over here in the States and what they are used to in South Africa," Trimmer expressed. "They are used to road course racing and haven't done a lot of oval racing. Things on an oval happens a little faster so we want to prepare them for what to look for and what to expect."

Along with the event, Trimmer also has a personal reason for visiting South Africa, "I actually have some friends in South Africa and I have been hoping to go down to South Africa and visit them for years," Trimmer said. "It was never one of those things that was going to come together anytime real soon. When Dennis Huth, ASA President, mentioned the race, I told him I wouldn't mind being involved in it. Everything came together and I was invited to be the safety director for the event and have been pumped up since." His friend is a musician from Austin, TX whose spouse is from South Africa.

"Rich has a great background and is very good at communicating and teaching safety officials," Dennis Huth, ASA President said. "This is one area that we are all taking very seriously for this event. We are grateful that Rich is available to provide his service to us for this event. I know that he is eager to work with the Phakisa safety officials and develop a great long lasting friendship with them as well."

Trimmer along with Larry and Vicki Pond represented ASA Racing at the IMIS Indianapolis Motor Speedway International Safety Conference in Indianapolis, IN this past December, 2009. This was the first professional conference in the USA for racing safety ever. It included US and International organizations including Formula One, FIA, Indy Racing League and NASCAR.

For more information about the Free State 500, please visit www.phakisa.com or www.freestate500.com.

To learn more of the Daytona Beach, Fla.-based American Speed Association call (386) 258-2221 or send an e-mail to info@asa-racing.com. For news and information from all the racetracks and regional tours involved in the ASA, visit www.ASA-Racing.com.

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